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Agenda item 124

Pattern of conferences

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 124 appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/54/690.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 58th meeting, on 31 March 2000. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the question are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/54/SR.58).

3. For its further consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-eighth session;[1]

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on United Nations publications (A/53/669);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations publications: enhancing cost-effectiveness in implementing legislative mandates" (A/52/685);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations publications: enhancing cost-effectiveness in implementing legislative mandates" (A/51/946).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/53/16).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.42

4. At its 58th meeting, on 31 March, the representative of Argentina and coordinator of informal consultations on this question, on behalf of the Chairman, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations publications: enhancing cost-effectiveness in implementing legislative mandates" (A/C.5/54/L.42) and orally revised it by replacing the word "fifty-fifth" in footnote five with the word "fifty-sixth".

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution as orally revised without a vote (see para.7).

6. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic drew attention to corrections to the Arabic version of the draft resolution.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations publications: enhancing cost-effectiveness in implementing legislative mandates

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations publications: enhancing cost-effectiveness in implementing legislative mandates",[2] the note by the Secretary-General containing his comments thereon,[3] the relevant chapter of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirty-eighth session[4] and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on United Nations publications,[5]

Recalling paragraph 1 of section D of its resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997, and taking into account the fact that the General Assembly has not taken any decision on the question of a cost-accounting system,

1. *Endorses* recommendations 2,[6] 3, 10 and 16 to 18 contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit;[2]

2. *Also endorses* recommendations 4 and 6 of the Joint Inspection Unit, subject to the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination contained in paragraph 350 of its report;[4]

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[2] A/51/946.

[3] A/52/685.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/53/16), chap. IV.

[5] A/53/669.

[6] The updated report of the Secretary-General on publications policy, referred to in recommendation 2, should be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

3. *Endorses* recommendations 13 and 15 of the Joint Inspection Unit as modified by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraphs 19 and 21, respectively, of its report;[5]

4. *Endorses* recommendation 14 of the Joint Inspection Unit, without prejudice to the traditional distribution of printed publications, taking into account paragraph 20 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

5. *Concurs* with paragraphs 22 and 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[7]

6. *Looks forward* to the study of the Secretary-General referred to in paragraph 43 of his report;[3]

7. *Regrets* that the provision contained in annex II, paragraph 45, of its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997 has not been implemented, and requests the Secretary-General to implement this provision as a matter of priority and to report to it at its fifty-fifth session in the context of the item entitled "Pattern of conferences";

8. *Requests* that additional efforts be made to improve the linguistic quality and content of United Nations publications concomitantly in all six official languages;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-sixth session, a report on the implementation of the provisions of the present resolution.

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[7] Recommendations 16 and 17 of the Joint Inspection Unit should be understood as pertaining to the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.